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Response to OA of 12-01-2009

Appendix A
Claims

1. (Previously Presented) In the method for forming lignocellulosic polyolefin composite products containing 25 to 75 percent by weight of the polyolefin material such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of a cationic salt of boric acid in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said amount of cationic salt of boric acid is in the range of from about 3 to about 5 percent by weight of said composite.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said lignocellulosic material is selected from the group consisting of wood, ground rice hulls, kenaf, jute, and coconut shells.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said polyolefin material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, high density polyethylene, and polystyrene.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said cationic salt of boric acid is calcium borate.

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7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a naturally

occurring borate.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is

selected from the group consisting of ulexite and colemanite.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said polyolefin

material is polyethylene or high density polyethylene.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium

borate is colemanite.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said cationic salt of

boric acid is zinc borate.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) In the method for forming a composite product ~~products~~

consisting of a polyolefin material which is 25 to 75 percent by weight of the total

composite, a lignocellulosic material, talc, mica, and optionally ~~and~~ at least one of the

group consisting of a lubricant, a cross- linking agent, a UV stabilizer an inhibitor, and a

coupling agent such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused

by mold attack, the improvement which consists of incorporating an amount of a cationic

salt of boric acid selected from the group of synthetic calcium borate, colemanite,

ulexite, or mixtures thereof in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said

composite product.

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17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) In the method for forming composite products consisting of

    lignocellulosic high density polyethylene and at least one of the group consisting of a

    lubricant, a cross- linking agent, a UV stabilizer, an inhibitor, and a coupling agent such

    as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the

    improvement which consists of incorporating an amount of synthetic calcium borate,

    colemanite, ulexite or mixtures thereof in the range of from about 3 to 5 percent by

    weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said amount of

    lignocellulosic material is in the range of from greater than 40% to about 70% of the

    total composite weight.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18 in which said amount of

    lignocellulosic material is in the range of from greater than 40% to about 70% of the

    total composite weight.

21 (New) The method according to claim 16 in which said composite product consists

    of high density polyethylene weighing at least 25 percent of the said composite

    product, wood weighing at least 40 percent of said composite product, talc weighing

    at least 5 percent of said composite product, and mica weighing at least 1 percent of

    said composite product.

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